

Unintended Pregnancy

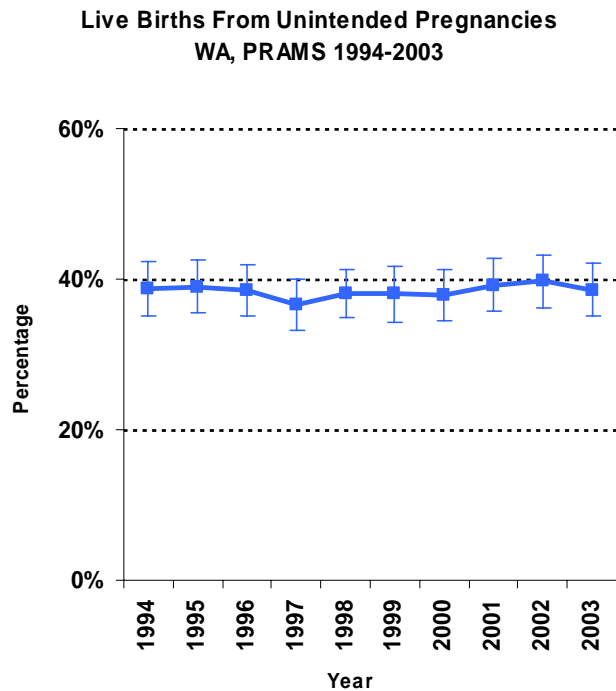
Publicly funded services to address Unintended Pregnancy are described in Family Planning and Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Key Findings:

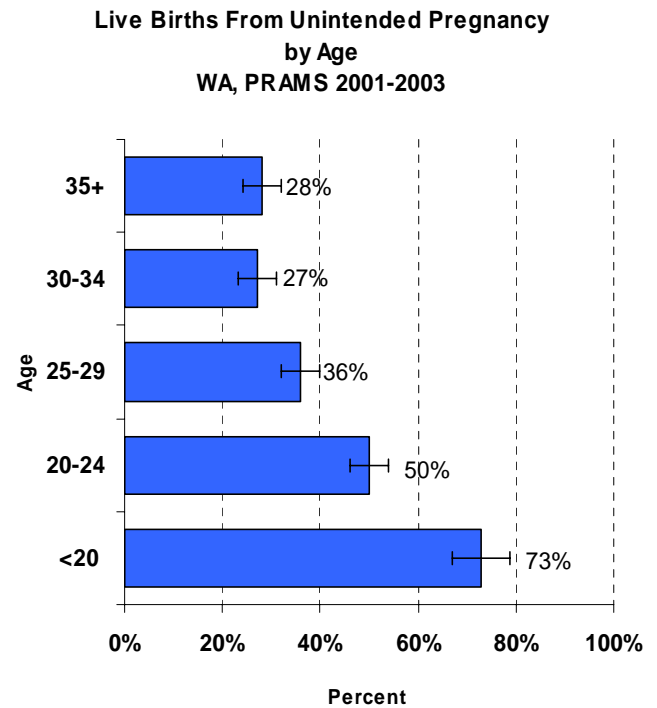
- Unintended pregnancy is an ambiguous concept that is imperfectly measured. Pregnancy intention may vary depending on when in relation to the pregnancy it is collected and the concept of intending or planning pregnancies may be influenced by cultural perceptions. In Washington, data on pregnancy intention is collected from women who have delivered live births. Women who avoid unintended pregnancies are excluded from this measure, potentially influencing the results. Trends in teen birth rates illustrate this dilemma: for Washington teens < 20 years, the birth rate decreased by 33% from 47.1 per 1000 in 1996 to 31.5 per 1000 in 2003. During the same period the percent of births from unintended pregnancies in PRAMS remained essentially unchanged. For these reasons, we are exploring other measures and whether we should continue the current data collection method.
- From 2001-2003, an estimated 54% of all pregnancies in Washington State were unintended, and an estimated 39% of live births were from unintended pregnancies. The proportion of live births from unintended pregnancies in Washington has not changed significantly since data collection began in 1994.^{1,2}
- The proportion of live births from unintended pregnancies varies significantly by age. About 73% of births to women less than 20 years of age were reported as births from unintended pregnancies. This rate decreases with age, but remains sizable even among older women. The lowest rate is among women 30-34 years who report an estimated 27% of births were from unintended pregnancies.^{2,a}
- Black women and American Indian/Alaska Native women were significantly more likely to report their birth was from an unintended pregnancy compared to Asian, White, and Hispanic women.^{2,a}
- TANF recipients were significantly more likely to report their delivery was from an unintended pregnancy than other Medicaid or Non-Medicaid women.^{2,a}
- Washington has not yet met the Healthy People 2010 objective to increase pregnancies that are intended to 70%.³

Definition: Unintended pregnancy is the retrospective report of intention to become pregnant by women 2-6 months after giving birth. It refers to pregnancies that were mistimed (for example, mother wanted them to occur “later”) or unwanted at the time of conception. Unintended pregnancy is measured as $[(\text{Estimated percentage of unintended pregnancies from PRAMS}) \times (\text{resident live births})] + (\text{reported resident abortions})$ divided by $[\text{resident live births} + \text{reported resident abortions}]$.

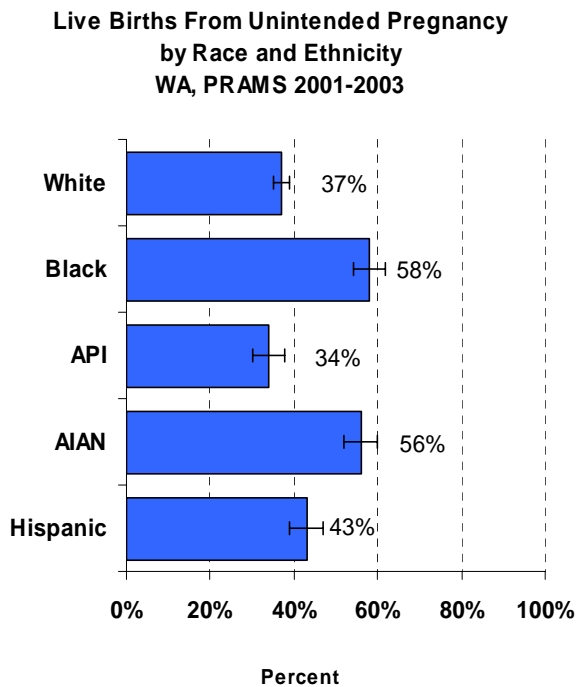
Time Trend ^{2,a}



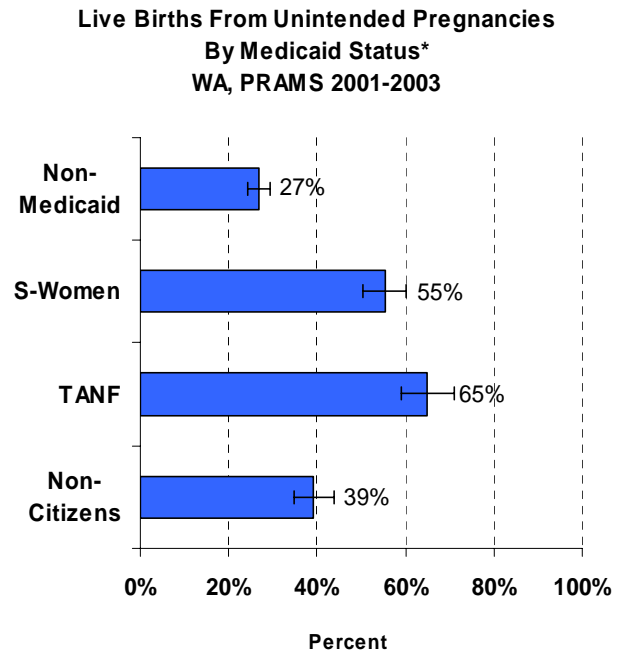
Age ^{2,a}



Race and Ethnicity ^{2,a,b,c}



Medicaid Status ^{2,3,a,d}



Data Sources

1. Washington State Pregnancy and Induced Abortion Statistics 2003, Center for Health Statistics, 2005.
2. Washington Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), 2001-2003. Washington State Department of Health, 2005.
3. First Steps Database. Research and Data Analysis Division, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, 2005.
4. Department of Health and Human Services (US). Healthy People 2010: Understanding and Improving Health. 2nd edition. Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office; November 2000.

Endnotes

- a. Significance was determined based on 95% Confidence Intervals
- b. AIAN – American Indian/Alaska Native
- c. API – Asian or Pacific Islander
- d. Medicaid women received maternity care paid for by Medicaid. They are divided into three major subgroups (from highest to lowest socioeconomic status): **S-Women** - those women who are citizens and eligible to receive Medicaid because they are pregnant and have incomes at or below 185% FPL, **TANF** - those women who are very low income (generally < 50% FPL) and receive cash assistance (TANF) in addition to Medicaid, and **Non-Citizens** - those women who are not citizens and are eligible to receive Medicaid because they are pregnant and have incomes at or below 185% FPL. Non-citizens are not eligible for TANF although their incomes are often lower than women on TANF. All three Medicaid groups have incomes below most Non-Medicaid women.